

JAN 16 2004

First Baptist's television ministry brought me back to the Lord. I was raised in the Catholic Church, but I had become disillusioned with their rituals, the recent scandals making the news, and the hypocrisy of the church people. My house had been flooded in the summer of 2002, and my own church family offered no help at all. I attended church only rarely.

As I was channel surfing one Sunday morning, I stopped on First Baptist's service. At the time, I didn't even know it was a San Antonio Church. I watched the pastor telling a story to the children that were all gathered around him, then I continued surfing. Later I checked my TV Guide to see what was scheduled during that time. I was very surprised to see that it was First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas. The following Sunday, I stopped on the same channel. This time, Pastor Don was preaching. He was preaching directly to me! Or at least it seemed like it, because his sermon touched my heart. I was hooked. From then on, I made a point to turn on the TV when it was time for the service to begin, but I would continue doing chores and flit in and out of the room. Eventually, I began to watch the whole service from start to finish. Since I was not used to the way Baptists do things, seeing the service on TV was a non-threatening introduction, and I liked that.

After I had been watching the TV service for almost a year, a friend invited me to go to First Baptist with her. I went, and found the people to be welcoming and friendly. Soon I started going every Sunday. I even joined the Adult Bible Study Classes. Now I can't wait to get up on Sunday morning so I can go to First Baptist Church. My life has a renewed focus now - God - and it's all because of the television ministry of First Baptist Church.

Thank you,

*Sherry K. Tschirhart*  
Sherry K. Tschirhart

1-22-04



Sherry K. Tschirhart  
1515 Naples St.  
Castroville, TX 78009

RM-10803

1-22-04 10:00 AM  
LIS: [unclear] 0

AM-10803

William R. Jackson  
San Antonio TX 78216  
Jan. 22, 2004  
RECEIVED

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

JAN 22 2004

To William R. Jackson  
The FCC President Powell

Sir:

I cannot imagine the pain of  
Alma & Colin Powell replacing a  
Sunday morning worship service  
with a sports event. Sports events  
are a dime a dozen.

There are many in San Antonio

like me - handicapped, or in the  
hospital or nursing homes. We

depend on the "a.m. worship  
service with the First Baptist

Church of San Antonio.

If you have been in our state

you have seen bumper stickers and  
signs on the sides of our highways  
"Don't mess with our worship ser-

vice!!

Respectfully,  
Katherine Hutton  
(81 years old)

Please add this to the  
letters that Bro. Don is taking  
to the FCC hearing.

Thanks for all that you do!  
Willy Staetker

**Kirby & Kathy Haertner**  
210 N Johnson  
Karnes City, TX 78118

RM-16803

RECEIVED

JAN 21 2004

To whom it may concern

Respectfully,  
Kirby & Kathy Haertner

We live in a small town about 60 miles south of San Antonio, and regularly attend a church in our town. For about the past 10 years, we have taped the broadcast of San Antonio's First Baptist Church and watched it later that day. Watching this broadcast has become something that we look forward to every single week, and has been a blessing to us in so many ways.

As a result of the telecast, we have visited the church many times, and met many of the wonderful people that attend. They have been there for us through numerous hospital stays in San Antonio, providing support and prayer, and we feel as though they are our "church away from home."

We have 2 grown daughters, the younger of which has recently finished college, and started her career in San Antonio. To our delight, she has joined First Baptist, and has been warmly welcomed and made to feel at home, all as a result of being exposed to this telecast while growing up.

In this day of so much bad news and so much immorality on television, we feel that the television ministry of First Baptist is a wonderful blessing to thousands of people in the San Antonio area, and hope that it may continue to be so for many years to come.

Sincerely,  
Kirby and Kathy Haertner  
Karnes City, Texas

Handwritten signature  
USA 480125

David Lopez

4291 S. Flores RD.

El Paso TX 78112

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

BM-10803

Jan. 18, 2004

Dear Pastor Gutierrez

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Just writing this few lines to say hello & hoping that we won't lose our program. Please excuse me for not spelling your name right. We were watching your sermon this past weekend. It was very meaningful to us. The reason is because you said what was on your mind. I believe that the Lord does put the thought in your head to give us insight. What you said about faith & hope is true. If you don't have God in you there is no hope or faith. He is everything, Alpha & Omega, praise his name. If you don't believe in it there is no hope in you. I notice that through seeing your sermon & listening to it for some time now, that you do have the spirit of the Lord in you. There are not many preachers that I respect. The reason that is because they are always putting on a show for money. That is all they think of. Another reason for this letter is that you ~~are~~ asked us to write in about this new law that is coming about the Radio & TV's. I pray to God that they don't even ban or disconnect your program. The reason I'm so against this is because my 77 year old Mother label watches this program every Sunday at 11:00 AM. We can't now to worship with you. She said that you look like President Bush. So please count on our support in this program. We'll be praying for your success to keep preaching on channel 12. I also wanted to ask if you could keep me in your prayers. I am unemployed & looking for a job. I hope that you pray for us to get better. May the Lord be with you.

DAVID LOPEZ

Sincerely

David Lopez

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2001

General Committee of the Synod  
Office of the Secretary

611-12363

231 Avenue ...

San Antonio, TX 78222

January 18 2001

Dear Don,

We are so very thankful to be able to "virtually" be in church services via the televised broadcasts each Sunday.

For the first fifty-four years of our married lives we were well and strong and energetic. I was young and in a local church with friends and relatives singing and studying God's Word and praying together. Reaching out to the lost, teaching, growing. The Lord also, now that we are respectively 82 and 75 years of age, health problems keep us at home most Sundays. What a blessing from God we have our beloved Pastor's sermons come into our home as well as the glorious music, hymns, choir and music from God by our beloved director. Praise God!

Today, when you, Don, say that what only 30 minutes would be possible for God we, we are so disappointed!

Love,



RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Lucille Seidenberger

RM-10803

Wheaton, Illinois  
Jan 17, 2004

Dear Pastor

Today I heard you say  
the service may be over back  
to 1/2 hr. Now, I have listened  
to the hr show for a few  
years and enjoyed every  
minute of it. I am 88 and  
can't remember names any  
more -- But --

- 1 your sermons are good
  - 2 your saint songs are good
  - 3 your choir is good
  - 4 your baptisms are good
  5. your roses for new born are good
  6. your little children's sermon
- I pray your program will  
continue as they are!!



Pe Box 234  
Wheaton IL 77975

Lucille (F. Ann) Seidenberger

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2004

FORBIDDEN TO BE LOANED OUT  
OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 20, 2004

Pastor Don Guthrie  
First Baptist Church  
515 McCullough  
San Antonio, TX 78215

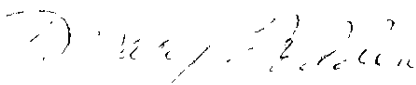
RM-108013

Dear Pastor Guthrie,

I am writing in response to your announcement last Sunday. I feel very strongly that the local stations should be allowed to retain control of local airtime on television. I watch your service every Sunday with my grandmother, as she is not able to leave the house. The thought of someone out of state controlling the programming and possibly removing your church service would be very distressing. The local stations are more interested in their viewer's interests. They have something at stake. I feel on the national level the concern for local interests would be minimal. The direction that programming is heading on the national level now, leaves a lot to be desired. They need to be removing some of the violent and sexually driven shows. My thinking may be way off base. I know there is a lot of information that needs to be presented, however after looking at our government and all of "our interests" that are being dealt with I don't feel I am to far off base.

Please count my support in favor of retaining local control. Thank you for letting us know what is happening and the opportunity to voice our opinion.

Sincerely,



Mary Tedder  
13510 Norland  
San Antonio, TX 78232

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

SM-10803

January 28, 2004

Dear KSAI TV and FCC

What a wonderful privilege we have to watch a local church service every Sunday on KSAI TV. It is my understanding this has been a regular part of Sunday mornings for our city for thirty years. Television reaches into the homes of many people who are curious about God and hungry for a word from a preacher from God's word, the Bible.

In my family, tuning on KSAI TV on Sunday mornings at eleven AM to listen and watch a local church, First Baptist of San Antonio became a spring of hope for the fellowship and strength from God's word during a hunting time in my life.

By watching this service produced a longing to believe

Respectfully,  
[Signature]

to a church family. The  
love of God through the smiles  
and authenticity of the pastor  
filled the hunger in my heart.  
The Bible says "for sake of the  
assembly of believers" and I  
longed to get back to a body  
of believers.

For a couple of years -  
watched this church service  
on Sunday mornings before being  
able to visit it one Sunday morning.

My family now belongs to this  
church and I am grateful for  
the medium of TV that works  
throughout this city reaching  
into homes and hearts providing  
a hunger to know God and become  
part of His eternal family.

Please don't take away this  
Sunday time slot. Remind me  
that even people in this city  
need to be able to have the  
freedom to turn on TV, tune into  
the church and have their lives  
transformed by the word of God in our  
community.

Thank you, Mrs. Shirley  
Bisler

RECEIVED

1-22-'04

JAN 22 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

To First Baptist Church - San Antonio

3A-108  
We have been married 57 years and  
are both now 90 years of age. We have always  
been regular in church attendance, but  
now we live in an extended care facility  
and are unable to attend on church, First Baptist.

At this point in our lives, the weekly  
telecast on Channel 13 from First Baptist  
has become a very important part of our  
spiritual lives. We watch it intently each  
Sunday. Pastor Don we consider to be the best  
minister that we have ever known. We  
give thanks to God for Channel 13, First Baptist,  
and Pastor Gutierrez.

It would be a tremendous loss to us if the  
above failed, for whatever reason, to continue.  
Our prayer is that the telecast may  
continue on as it has been doing for so long.

Sincerely,

Philip M and Dorothy Jones  
5331 Hamilton Ave #129  
San Antonio, Texas 78229

RECEIVED  
JAN 22 2004

RECEIVED

January 28, 2004

JAN 28 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Pastor Don,

RM-10803

This is in regards to the local programming issue that you will be addressing with the FCC hearing tonight.

I think it would be in the best interest of San Antonio, especially, for the local affiliate to be able to control their own local programming. I am afraid that if the national affiliate was allowed to buy out the local affiliate, that local programming like our church broadcast would not be allowed to continue and that would be devastating for the people of South Texas

First Baptist Church's weekly broadcast is responsible for my returning to my walk with the Lord. If this programming had not been available, I would still be wandering in the dark. My parents, who are elderly, watch the broadcast weekly as they are unable to get out to attend church. I'm sure there are many people like them in South Texas who depend on local church broadcasts for their worship time

Please express my concern that the local affiliates be able to continue the local affiliate's ability to control their local programming as it is in the best interest of the local community

In His Service,

*Julie Jones*  
Julie Jones

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES  
LIST ABOVE

LIDA LEE DENNEY ERBEN  
104 LILAC LANE  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209

AM-10803

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

January 19, 2004

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Not only does the First Baptist Church service on T.V. at 11AM on ABC enhance my Sunday, but it also is the highlight of our week-end when we are unable to actually attend church.

We thank God there is a T.V. inspirational outlet for those people who cannot physical attend church. This routine programing must continue. PLEASE be aware of it's importance.

THANK YOU,

*Lida Lee*

LIDA LEE DENNEY ERBEN

RECEIVED  
JAN 28 2004

6A7-16803

To this esteemed panel from the FCC. I am offering this letter to you in hopes that as you decide how best to handle the issue of local versus national control of programming, you will consider my views. I am the lead director for the live Sunday broadcast of First Baptist Church of San Antonio. I have been involved in this very vital mission of the church for over 15 years. We provide a real-time worship experience to many of our members who can no longer come to church. We also provide a place for visitors to our city to come and worship while they are far away from home. Many of our current members have joined as a direct result of our TV ministry. I could approach these issues solely from a spiritual standpoint, and trust me that is the number one reason for this letter, but I come to you with my real concerns about the weakening of local programming control. I have seen, or rather, heard what happens to one medium when the local touch is removed and placed in the hands of one or two major corporations. In the case of radio, canned programs, off-site talent and play lists that are so watered down, have made radio one big giant blob of nothing. I no longer listen to commercial radio because of the influence of one or two companies in telling me what I should listen to. All of this leads to why I do not think that lessening the local control is a wise decision on your part. If you look at the three major networks, there is no creativity in national programming. Close your eyes and change the station and you will swear you have never let one network for another. The national news is centered in the great media centers, providing major focus of many issues that neither interest nor concern the majority of this nation's viewers. If you give the national networks more control over what we see and hear, then you have effectively taken away our community, our sense of neighborhood. Programs like ours would lose their timeslot to some national political show with its mindless ranting and raving. It will serve no one to remove or lessen the control of the local stations. It will instead kill what local identity that we have. Please consider what your job is about. You serve the best interests of the listeners and the viewers not the multi-million dollar corporations that want to take away one more of the things that makes us unique.

Bob Parker  
Lead Director FBC  
San Antonio, TX  
bparker@saisd.net

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JAN 2 1990

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

6A7-16803

January 23, 2004

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

The Rev. Don Guthrie  
First Baptist Church  
515 McCullough  
San Antonio, TX

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

RM-10803

Dear Pastor,

I would like to express my gratitude to the church for the televised Sunday morning service. I do not have the words to adequately communicate the deepest meaning these broadcasts have had to me and my family.

Six years ago I lost my only grandchild. Bryan was diagnosed with leukemia when he was just seven years old. We lost him just after he turned nine years old. There is no way I can possibly tell you how much these televised services meant to Bryan when, over the two years he was ill, he was unable to attend church. He loved his church and his church family, and knowing they loved him in return gave him much needed courage to face the daily challenges of his life and illness. When he was not in the hospital, he would dress for church, putting on his blue dress shirt and his tie, to watch church on TV. He fully participated in the worship, even though he could not be there in person. He felt that he was able to "keep up" with activities because he was able to participate in the services through television. When he was lying in the hospital bed, alone, attached to IV tubings, I would remind him that his church family loved him and was praying for him. He would give me the most beautiful smile and say, "I know that, G'amma." Being able to continue to be a part of church fellowship via the televised Sunday mornings made up in part for his inability to be part of the other things he loves, like school, playing outside, and being with his friends.

I also believe the television ministry is a very large outreach tool. Whenever I say I belong to First Baptist Church, I hear the comment, "Oh, you're the ones on TV on Sunday mornings. I love to watch when I'm not able to go to my church." Or "If I go to early service at my church, I like to watch your church service at 11 am. You have the best choir and the best music in the city." Those are just a couple of the many comments I've heard. I know that people in nursing homes especially appreciate our televised services. Just being able to sing along with the hymns is very important to our elder community.

I certainly hope the television ministry of First Baptist Church continues in the future as it has over the past 25-30 years. It has certainly been an important part in the lives of my family members.

Marilyn Hinton

*Marilyn Hinton*

*[Signature]*

RA-10803

January 18, 2004  
RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

Dear Pastor Luthrie,

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

In response to your request for letters to back up support for TV Ministry, I am enclosing a letter. To Whom It May Concern

My entire family was disappointed that the service was cut to 1/2 hour today.

I pray that the T.V. service will not be cut or altered in any way. Your sermons are inspiring; the choir sings beautifully. Keep up the good work in bringing God's message to us on a weekly basis.

Our household consists of 3 senior citizens and we all enjoy the services.

God Bless you, your family and congregation.

Sincerely,

JAN 28 2004  
FBI WASH DC

Dorothy Hatcher  
1545 Willow Creek  
Sevier, Texas 78155

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

RM-4803

January 18, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support the local ministry on television from the First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas.

My household consists of 3 senior citizens and we do not want the local coverage altered in anyway by national broadcast events. Each of us enjoy the Church services every Sunday morning.

We do not want the national broadcasts taking over local services.

As a further thought, you might say I was forced to purchase cable to receive some of the sports activities I like and of course it cost me additional money based on a fixed income.

Keep the local services as they are

Very truly yours,  
C

Sincerely,  
Douglas Hartman  
1545 Willow Creek  
Squir, Texas 78155  
830-372-4627

R.M. 10803

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Margarita Allen  
9762 Misty plain Dr.  
San Antonio Sp.  
78745

The live telecast of the First Baptist Church every Sunday; is the best program on television. I watch it every Sunday morning. My family, my friends and I look forward to it every Sunday. When I was in the hospital it was what helped me get well. It would be an injustice if it was not telecast. I am praying that their letter will help to keep KSAT and ~~First~~ First Baptist Church together.

Respectfully  
Margarita Allen  
January 26, 04

100-10803-1000